

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

160378 5009 D-378

NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: site of the "Old Common"				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: 108 High Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge,				
STATE Maryland		COUNTY: Dorchester		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		OWNERSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> Public Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Bath <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No				
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific				
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) apartments				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Harry C. Orem, E. Bayly Orem				
STREET AND NUMBER: 207 High Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge		STATE: Maryland		21613
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Dorchester County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER: 206 High Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge		STATE: Maryland		21613
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): Liber 39/Folio 69				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
	(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>This large house, built at the end of the 19th century, has now been converted to apartments. It is a two and one half story frame house, covered with brown shingles, with a hip roof that rises to a peak. There is a rear wing and on the north facade is a two story polygonal bay window with a gable above. The front facade is three bays long. An unusual feature of this house is the three story porch on the front. At the first story level, the porch extends across the entire front. This porch is partially enclosed and has three pointed arch openings. At the second and third story level, the porch extends only in front of the center bay and is crowned by a gable roof. The gable is embellished with imbricated shingle. The corner posts of the second story porch, support the third story porch above which is almost entirely enclosed, except for a large opening on the front. Around the cornice of the roof is a decorative row of dentils.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) after 1887

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**History:**

The property upon which this house was built, was once part of a lot stretching from Commerce Street to the river, known as the "Old Common". This lot had a long history of ownership, although the present houses were not built until the 1890's. It was first conveyed by James Phillips, escheat patentee of "Ricarton" to John Caile in May 1747 for \$30. In July 1760, John Caile sold the property to Charles Goldsborough for \$100. The property was owned by several members of the Goldsborough family, until in 1802, it was sold by Richard Goldsborough to James Steele, then owner of the Point. Mr. Steele's son James sold the lot to Capt. Sadrach Mitchell in 1824. By several deeds stretching from 1834 to 1843, Capt. Mitchell conveyed all his property to Josiah Bayly, Jr. (excepting a strip on the edge of the water known as the "shipyard"). There were still no houses on the property known as the "Old Common". In April 1847, Josiah Bayly, Jr. sold the property to Lewis Ross, who later acquired the shipyard also. Capt. Ross died in 1879 and by his will divided the property in two parts, devising the southern half to his granddaughter, Lydia A. Ross, who later married Thomas Hughlett, and the northern half (toward the river) to his granddaughter, Elexine, wife of Charles N. Creighton. In 1883, Miss Ross sold her half to Roberta Crowell, wife of Joseph W. Crowell, who in 1887 sold the property to Mrs. Clara W. Byrn, wife of W. Wilson Byrn, first president of the Dorchester and Delaware Railroad Company. Mrs. Byrn built a house (108 High St.) for herself on the northern half of the lot and sold the southern half to James H. Henry of Baltimore.

Significance:

This large house reflects the influence of the Shingle style which became popular in the United States after 1880. It is part of a group of several large houses on the northern end of High Street, most of which were built in late 19th century and are of architectural interest.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Col. Clement Sullivane,
article reprinted in the Daily Banner, May 1, 1925

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Catherine L. Moore,

ORGANIZATION

DATE

11/12/75

STREET AND NUMBER:

Route 3, Box 32

CITY OR TOWN:

Cambridge

STATE

Maryland

12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

108 HIGH STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND

CHANGE REFERENCE TO: RSM 39/60

This house was built in 1887 by Clara Wilson Byrn. Her husband was W. Wilson Byrn, the first president of the Cambridge and Seaford Railroad and the builder of Rose Hill Mansion. The High Street house was constructed on what had been known as "The Old Common", running from Commerce Street to the Choptank River. The land was in the possession of Lewis Ross and his heirs until 1883, when the present lots at 108 and 110 High Street were sold to Roberta Crowell, wife of J. W. Crowell (see Glenburn). The Crowells sold the lots to Mrs. Byrn in 1887. The residence is in the shingle style that was popular in the United States in the late nineteenth century. On Mrs. Byrn's death the house passed to her two daughters. IT changed hands several times in the twentieth century until the present owner acquired it in 9139. This large, three-story house now serves as an apartment building.

Sources:

Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland

Land Records.

Dorchester County Office Building, Cambridge, Maryland.

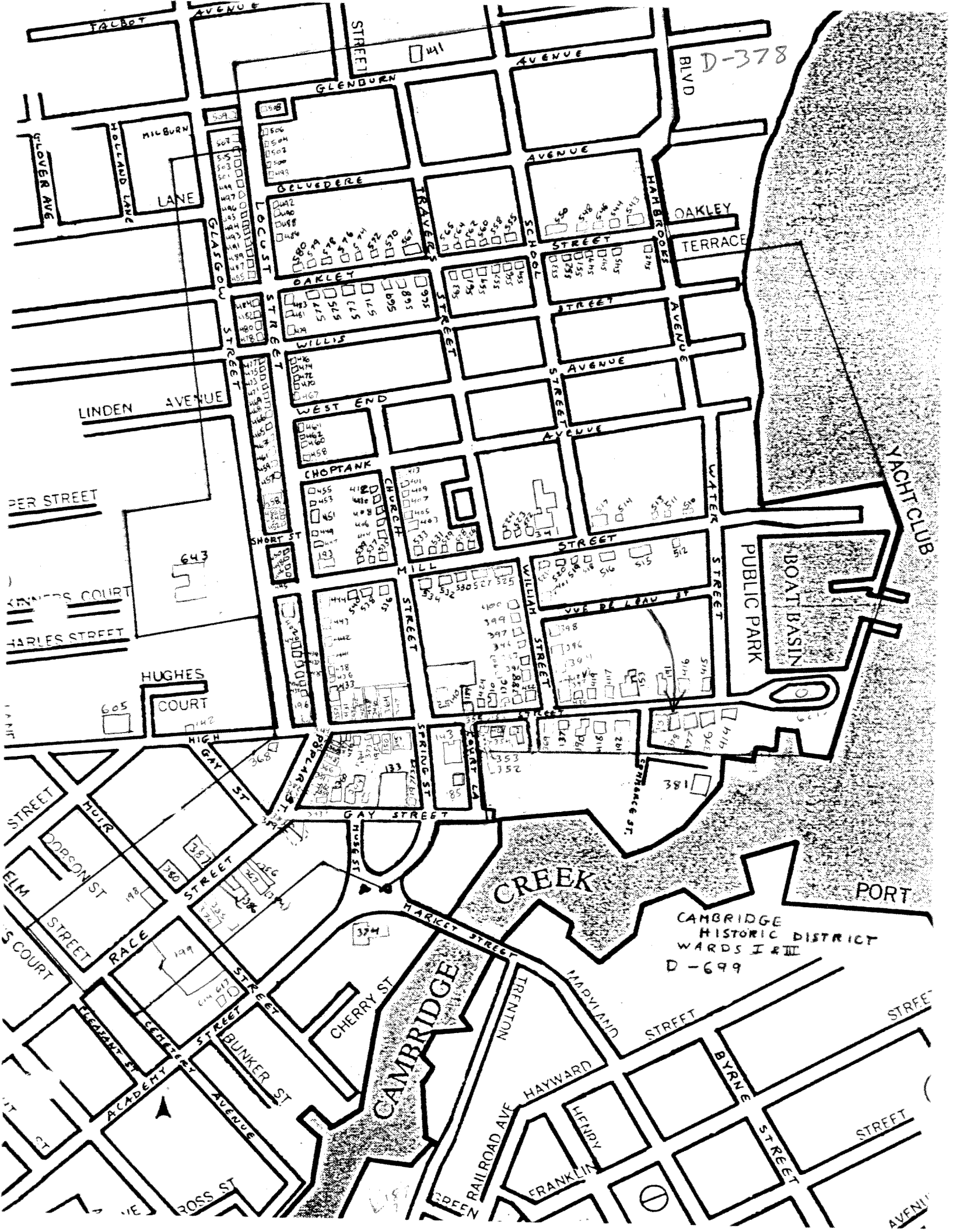
Assessment Records.

Interview, E. Bayly Orem, 207 High Street, owner.

Research by:

Terrance Walbert

1976



10 X 1-68

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8 High St., Cambridge, Md. - West Facade - C.L. Moore, 1976

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